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Preliminary Amendment

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract on page 19 as follows:

ABSTRACT

Improved process for producing silane crosslinked polyethylene

The present invention is directed to a process for producing silane crosslinked (cured) polyethylene in which a polyethylene is grafted with a silane comprising at least one ethylenic double bond to a silane crosslinkable polyethylene which is then subjected to a crosslinking (curing) step, characterized in that the process comprises the following process steps:

- a) a sample is taken from the silane crosslinkable polyethylene before the curing step,
- b) the sample is processed into a film,
- c) the film is analyzed by Infrared Spectroscopy,
- d) a predefined area of the IR spectrum is determined and
- e) the area determined in step d) is correlated with the gel content in the silane crosslinked polyethylene after the curing step using a predetermined regression curve.

Figure 1.